

Message Text

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AMCONSUL BUKAVU

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 12161

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS ETRN CG ZA AO

SUBJECT: MOBUTU-KAUNDA MEETING DECEMBER 20

REF: A) KINSHASA 11933 B) LUSAKA 3893

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MOBUTU OF ZAIRE MET WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA (REFTEL A) ON DECEMBER 20 AT THE ZAMBIAN TOWN OF MBALA. THE TWO PRESIDENTS PROBABLY DISCUSSED SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND BILATERAL ISSUES ESPECIALLY SECURITY QUESTIONS. FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSIONS ARE TO TAKE PLACE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONCERNING AN EXTRADITION TREATY AND TRANSIT PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ZAIRIAN MEDIA WERE UNINFORMATIVE AS TO WHAT ACTUALLY OCCURRED DURING THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS. THEY DID NOTE THAT "PROBLEMS OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES" WERE DISCUSSED. THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES, AS WELL AS BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, LENDS CONFIRMATION TO EARLIER REPORTS
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(REFTEL A) THAT SECURITY QUESTIONS WERE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS.

3. THE TWO LEADERS MUST HAVE HAD A GREST DEAL TO TALK ABOUT. THE RECENT MEETING OF FRONT-LINE STATES WHICH KAUNDA ATTENDED PRESUMABLY WAS ON THE AGENDA. LIKE EMBASSY LUSAKE (REFTEL B), WE ASSUME THAT ANOTHER SUBJECT WHICH FIGURED IN THEIR TALKS

WAS ZAIRIAN CONCERN THAT EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES MIGHT USE ZAMBIAN TERRITORY TO LAUNCH A NEW SHABA INVASION. THE FACT THAT THE PART OF ZAMBIA WHICH BORDERS ZAIRE AND ANGOLA IS LARGELY UNINHABITED, WITHOUT ROADS, AND VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ZAMBIA TO POLICE EFFECTIVELY, HAS ACCENTUATED ZAIRIAN APPREHENSION ON THIS SCORE. FINALLY, SINCE ZAMBIA HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH ZAIRE AND ANGOLA, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT KAUNDA MIGHT EVENTUALLY PLAY A MEDIATING ROLE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WHILE WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE BELIEF THAT HE IS CURRENTLY PLAYING, OR EVEN CONTEMPLATING UNDERTAKING SUCH A ROLE, ANGOLA AND ITS RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE MAY WELL HAVE FIGURED IN THE MOBUTU-KAUNDA DISCUSSIONS.

4. AZAP ANNOUNCED THAT FOLLOW-ON BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ARE TO BE CONTINUED IN LUSAKA BEGINNING MONDAY, DECEMBER 26. THE ZAIRIAN DELEGATION TO THESE TALKS IS TO BE LED BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WILL INCLUDE THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AS WELL AS THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER OF SHABA. SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED WILL INCLUDE AN EXTRADITION TREATY AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS. ZAIRIAN MEDIA NOTED THAT MANY ZAMBIANS PASSING BETWEEN THE WESTERN AND NORTHEASTERN PORTIONS OF THEIR COUNTRY CHOSE TO TRAVEL THROUGH SEVENTY KILOMETERS OF ZAIRIAN TERRITORY VIA MOKAMO (I.E., THE PEDICLE ROAD), RATHER THAN TO TAKE THE CIRCUITOUS ALL-ZAMBIAN ROUTE. THE LUSAKA MEETING REPORTEDLY WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS ON THE REPAIR OF THIS ROAD AND ON THE TOLLS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ZAMBIANS MUST PAY TO USE IT.
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